

*On a new Genus and Species of the Family Trochilidæ.*

By JOHN GOULD, F.R.S. &c.

I must confess that, after the many years I have been studying this family of birds, I was not prepared for the acquisition of the very remarkable species hereinafter described. It is most nearly allied to the members of the genus *Thalurania*, but is sufficiently distinct in its form to warrant its being constituted the type of a new genus, for which I propose the name of *Hylonympha*, with the following characters:—

*Bill* stout, somewhat curved, a little longer than the head. *Wings* rather long and falciform. *Feet* and *toes* moderately strong; *tarsi* clothed. *Tail* ample, deeply forked, and larger in comparison with the size of the body than that of any other member of the family.

Were it not for its large, long, swinging tail, it would very much remind us of *Thalurania glaucopis*.

*Hylonympha macrocerca.*

Crown of the head glittering blue, with a reflection of green towards the edges; throat glittering green, passing into dull green on the flanks; abdomen black, glossed with green; feathers clothing the tarsi dark brown on the outer side and white on the inner; under tail-coverts black; all the ten feathers of the tail, the outer ones of which are very broad, a uniform steel-black.

Total length  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches; bill 1, wing  $2\frac{3}{4}$ , tail 6, tarsi  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

Habitat uncertain. I obtained this bird from Mr. Whitely, who stated he received it in a collection of skins which had been formed in Brazil.

*On the Zoological Position and Function of the Parasitic Acarina called Hypopus.* By M. MÉGNIN.

In a recent note I announced:—1, that under my eyes an octopod nymph of *Tyroglyphus rostro-serratus* had been transformed into a *Hypopus* easily recognizable as *H. feroniarum*, L. Dufour; and, 2, that I had seen the same *Hypopus* under different conditions resume the form of *Tyroglyphus*. From these facts I concluded that the *Hypopodes*, and their analogues the *Homopodes* and *Trichodactyli*, were merely transitory asexual states of the *Tyroglyphi* and perhaps of other Acarina. I have now to announce further observations, which fully confirm the previous ones.

In a large undescribed *Tyroglyphus*, which also lives upon fungi, but feeds chiefly on the stalk (whilst *T. rostro-serratus* particularly affects the hood and the lamellæ), I have also seen the asexual nymph become transformed into a *Hypopus*. This *Hypopus*, which is much larger than the former one, appears to be the *Acarus spinitarsus*, Herm.; it is of the same size (0.33 by 0.12 millim.) and of the same orbicular oval form. Its legs are robust, furnished with claws without suckers, and provided with numerous rigid setæ, especially posteriorly; it is cuirassed like the other *Hypopodes*, is of a rose colour, with a pair of vesicles filled with a bright green liquid,